

S T R A N G E

A N D

Dreadful N E W S

F R O M

Queens-street, London.

O R

*A Terrible warning for Whore-mongers, and debauched Persons:
In the sad and dismal example of ED. HARRIS Esq; who sadly
expired on the 26 of July 1684.*

THat we ought to be careful of our ways, seeing on what a slender thread our lives hang is most Evident, for no man can assure a second moment his and to the Almighty ordered it, that although he gives Men many things in abundance, yet is he so sparing of precious time, that never any Man had two moments at once, but to proceed in my dismal Relation, and which may stand as a Sea mark, to all debauched and prophan'd Persons, to warn them of running into evil courses, and provoking the Great GOD of Heaven and Earth to punish them, in the midst of their Sins, and highest Irregularities thus, as *Ed. Harris*, a Gentleman well descended, well educated, and of some considerable fortune, having in his youth given himself to many Debaucheries and vain Expressions, made way thereby for the tempter to prevail against him, who still from less to greater, led him on but above all to Whoredom and Prophaness; in Cursing and Blaspheming his Creator, rarely remembring him in any other dialect, when at length after haunting divers wicked places, he happened in the company of one *Catherine Nash* who sometimes was at service, and at other times loitered at her own hands, taking evil courses past doubt to support her necessities, having been divers times observed with People of lude conversation, besides the unfortunate Person occasioning this Narration, so that having in the end, put her self into considerable habit, She became a servant to a Scrivener, a worthy honest Gentleman, living in *Queen-street* near *Cheapside*, but she had not long continued there before such things were observed, that did not please her Master, &c. Especially the aforementioned Gentlemans coming to her, and her going to places of ill fame, and staying out at unreasonable hours, to the detrement of her Masters business, so that She was turned away or had warning speedily to be gone, when on *Fryday July 25. 1684* in the Evening, the aforesaid Mr. *Harris* came to her, and they



they both going to the sign of the *Pewter-platter*, kept by one Mr. *Minor*, being an Ale-house opposite to her Masters House, and there being together in private, they called for divers Liquors, and amongst others for Brandy; where drinking till it was late, they concluded not to separate for that Night, but stay and lodge in the House aforesaid, whether with the consent of the People or not, is left to the judgment of the Reader, who may determine it, could not be well without.

Being over-powred with excessive drinking, and fired with unlawful lust, they about 12 or somewhat before went to Bed, to a Girl not past 12 or 13 years of Age, there being no other convenient Bed empty, which so affrighted the Girl, that she began to cry, and be much disquieted at so unusual a thing, but they threatening to kick her out of the Bed, if she did not lye still, and on the contrary promising her some reward, they there continued and proceeded to their unlawful pleasure, Carressing and Endearing each other: The aforesaid Mr. *Harris* as it appeared by the Girl, still continuing to Swear extremely, when for a while lying still, he began to complain that the Brandy burnt his heart out, and by the faulting of his speech, appeared to be exceeding ill, whereupon his companion rose to call up some help, but whether fear or shame made her call so faintly, that no Body could hear, or whether or not they would not rise is uncertain, but so it happened that whilst they delayed after many Pantings, Pangs and Agonies of Convulsive death, but without much remorse or reluctancy, for so great a Provocation of the Almighty, the aforesaid Mr. *Harris*, lay still with his Eyes open, breathing something but so little, that it could not be perceived, when in the end some of the People upon a further disturbance, made by the little Girl, who had been taken in to do the business of the House not long before, came up where they found him breathless, extended at length, and his Eyes still open, which occasioned them to call in some Neighbours, and relate what had happened the Wench being seized on suspicion of having Murthered him, confessed to the effect aforesaid.

The Corroners Jury sitting upon him on Saturday *July 26* in the Evening his Body was searched, but no wound nor bruise found thereon, nor any symptoms giving suspicion of poyson, when being let blood, he bled pretty freely, which made some scruple whether he was dead or in a trance, but no breath appearing to move the former is most Evident, the Money found about him was inconsiderable, as for *Catherine Nash*, She was committed to Prison, there to be kept in Custody, till she be proceeded against, and punished according as the Law in such case requires, the Inquest finding that the Party deceased, dyed of the Visitation of God.

'Tis said, this unfortunate Gentleman had a Wife, but lived not with her, rather choosing to run into such extravagancies, which too frequently prove destructive both to Body and Soul. For as *Solomon* says, *the way of an Harlot tends to Death and Hell.*